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PLANET OF VAMPIRES
TM
BRODERICK & ADAMS '74
A WORLD GONE MAD!
SIX ASTRONAUTS RETURN TO EARTH AND FIND IT RULED BY
VAMPIRES!

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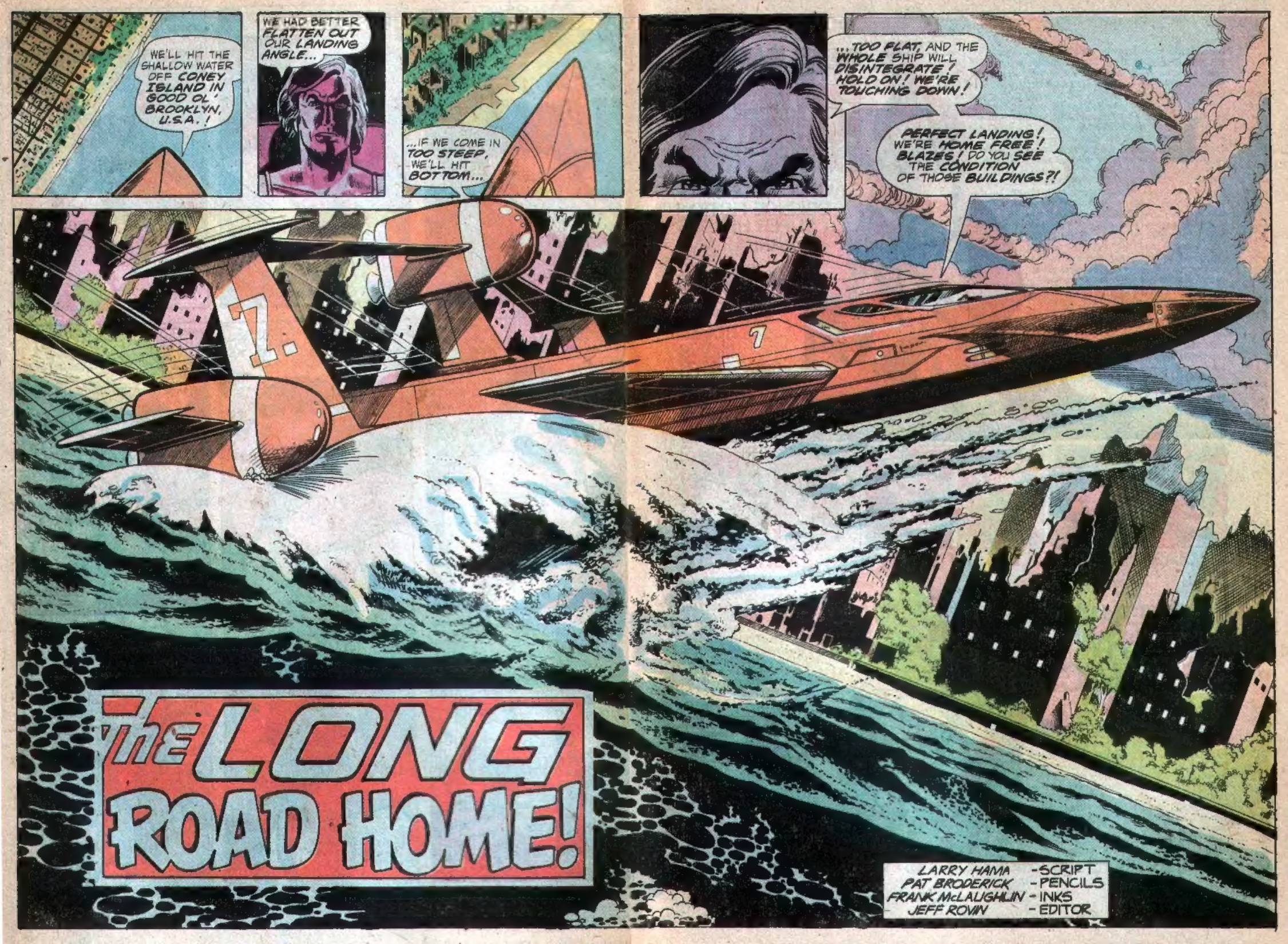
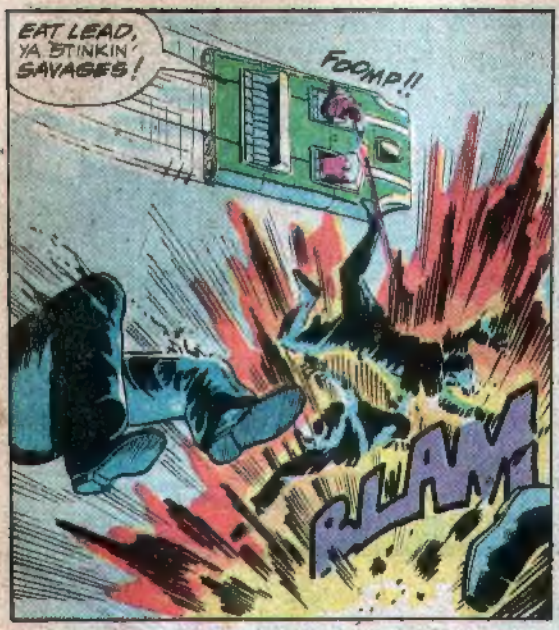

WE'LL HIT THE SHALLOW WATER OFF CONEY ISLAND IN GOOD OL' BROOKLYN, U.S.A.!
WE HAD BETTER FLATTEN OUT OUR LANDING ANGLE...
...IF WE COME IN TOO STEEP, WE'LL HIT BOTTOM...
...TOO FLAT, AND THE WHOLE SHIP WILL DISINTEGRATE! HOLD ON! WE'RE TOUCHING DOWN!
PERFECT LANDING! WE'RE HOME FREE! BLAZES! DO YOU SEE THE CONDITION OF THOSE BUILDINGS?!
THE LONG ROAD HOME!
LARRY HAMA - SCRIPT
PAT BRODERICK - PENCILS
FRANK McLAUGHLIN - INKS
JEFF ROVIN - EDITOR

I SEE IT, CHRIS! THIS PLACE WAS A SLUM THE LAST TIME I SAW IT, BUT IT NEVER LOOKED THIS UGLY... SOMETHING BAD HAS BEEN GOING ON HERE...
WHEN CONTACT WITH MISSION CONTROL WAS BROKEN TWO YEARS AGO, RIGHT AFTER THEY TOLD US A WAR HAD ERUPTED, I KNEW THINGS WEREN'T GOING TO BE VERY PLEASANT WHEN WE GOT BACK! BUT THIS...
WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THERE'S SOMEBODY LEFT ALIVE IN ALL OF THIS MESS...
BEN!!
CA-WAK!
HEY, GANG, WE DONE FOUND US SOME "DOMIES". WHADDYA YA SAY WE KILL DESE BLOOD-SUCKERS A LITTLE?
"DOMIES"?... BLOODSUCKERS? WHAT THE BLAZES IS HE--
SCATTER! THIS WAS A LOUSY "DOMIE" TRAP! THERE'S A "FLOATER" COMIN' IN ON US NOW!


EAT LEAD, YA STINKIN' SAVAGES!
FOOMP!!
BLAM

GET IN HERE, FAST! THOSE VERMIN WILL SACRIFICE A HUNDRED MEN JUST TO GET ONE OF US!
YOU HEARD THE MAN! LET'S MOVE IT!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
FOOOMP!

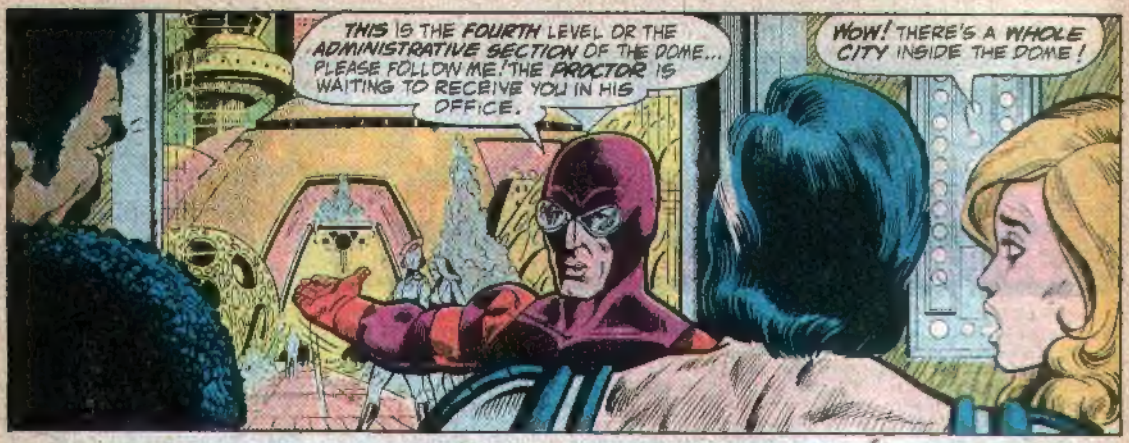
CAN'T KILL ENOUGH OF THESE ANIMALS! THEY BREED LIKE FLIES, YOU KNOW...

THOSE PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN BRUTALIZED BY CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT THEY'RE STILL HUMAN BEINGS... HOW CAN YOU...

HAR! YOU'VE BEEN OFF-PLANET A LONG TIME OR YOU WOULDN'T BE SAYING THAT! WE'RE ALMOST HOME...

THIS DOME WAS BUILT TWO YEARS AGO WITH THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING AS THE AXIS... IT STANDS 1100 FEET TALL WITH FIVE INTERIOR LEVELS AND IT'S TWO AND A HALF MILES WIDE AT THE BASE. THE TOP OF THE DOME IS A LANDING FIELD FOR FLOATERS. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING NOW...

WE SPOTTED YOUR SHIP COMING IN AND SOMEBODY DOWN IN "RECORDS" REMEMBERED ABOUT THE MARS PROBE! WE WOULD HAVE CONTACTED YOU BUT THE IONOSPHERE HAS BEEN SO HOT WITH FREE ELECTRONS FROM ALL THE "SURGES" THEY USED DURING THE WAR THAT WE COULDN'T GET THROUGH...
THAT EXPLAINS THE COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN...


THIS IS THE FOURTH LEVEL OR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION OF THE DOME... PLEASE FOLLOW ME! THE PROCTOR IS WAITING TO RECEIVE YOU IN HIS OFFICE.
WOW! THERE'S A WHOLE CITY INSIDE THE DOME!

FANTASTIC! ...TO BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS, SO SOON AFTER A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST!

HEY! MY EARS JUST POPPED!
THIS PLACE MUST BE PRESSURIZED TOO... EXACTLY WHAT IS IT THAT THE DOME KEEPS IN ANYWAY?

IT DOESN'T KEEP ANYTHING IN... IT KEEPS THE SAVAGES OUT!

THERE'S NOTHING THOSE ANIMALS WOULD LIKE BETTER THAN TO DRAG US ALL DOWN TO THEIR LEVEL OF DEGENERATION...

THIS DOME IS ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING BASTIONS OF SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION! WE MUST DEFEND IT AT ALL COSTS!

HOW DOES THIS GUY, THE PROCTOR, FIT INTO THE SCHEME OF THINGS?

AT THE TIME OF THE WAR, THE PROCTOR WAS THE CORPORATE HEAD OF A MEGALITHIC INDUSTRIAL COMBINE... WHILE THE HEADS OF STATE AND THE MILITARY WERE FLEEING TO THE HILLS, HE WAS HARNESSING ALL THE RESOURCES AND POWER AT HIS COMMAND TO BUILD THIS DOME FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CIVILIZATION!

THE PROCTOR SOUNDS LIKE A MAN TO BE RECKONED WITH!

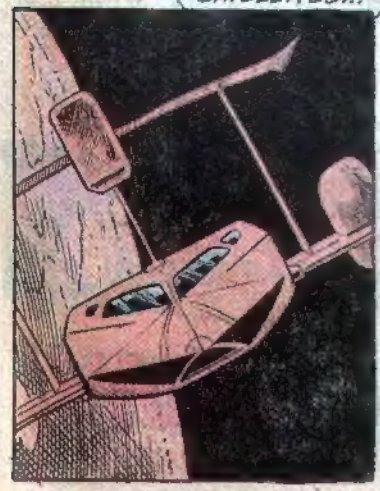
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I AM, CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER GALLAND. BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME... COME IN! MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE AND TELL ME THE TALE OF YOUR EXPEDITION!

THANK YOU, PROCTOR! BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL AND A LOT OF IT INVOLVES SOME RATHER ESOTERIC SCIENTIFIC DATA...

OH, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM INTERESTED! THE ARIES VII MISSION WAS TO HAVE BEEN A MILESTONE IN INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION... ANY INFORMATION YOU COULD GIVE US WOULD BE A WINDFALL TO OUR ARCHIVES!

WELL, SIR, OUR MISSION WAS A BIOLOGICAL ONE... OUR OBJECTIVE WAS TO FIND AND CATALOGUE ANY LIFE FORMS THAT MIGHT EXIST ON MARS AND ITS SATELLITES...

IT WAS DR. BEN LEVITZ, OUR BIOLOGIST THAT MADE OUR ONLY ACTUAL PLANET-FALL ON PHOBOS, ONE OF THE TWO MOONS OF MARS...



"WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF PREPARING FOR OUR INITIAL PLANETFALL ON MARS ITSELF WHEN WE RECEIVED NEWS OF THE DEEPENING DISCORD BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS... THE LAST MESSAGE WE RECEIVED FROM MISSION CONTROL WAS THAT WAR HAD BEEN DECLARED... AFTER THAT-- COMPLETE RADIO SILENCE!"

"WE ASSUMED THE WORST... THAT UNCONTROLLED NUCLEAR WARFARE WAS RAGING ACROSS THE FACE OF THE EARTH... THAT UNMENTIONABLE SECRET ARSENALS WERE BEING LOOSED AGAINST THE POPULACE... THAT THE RADIO SILENCE MEANT ALL TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN OBLITERATED!"

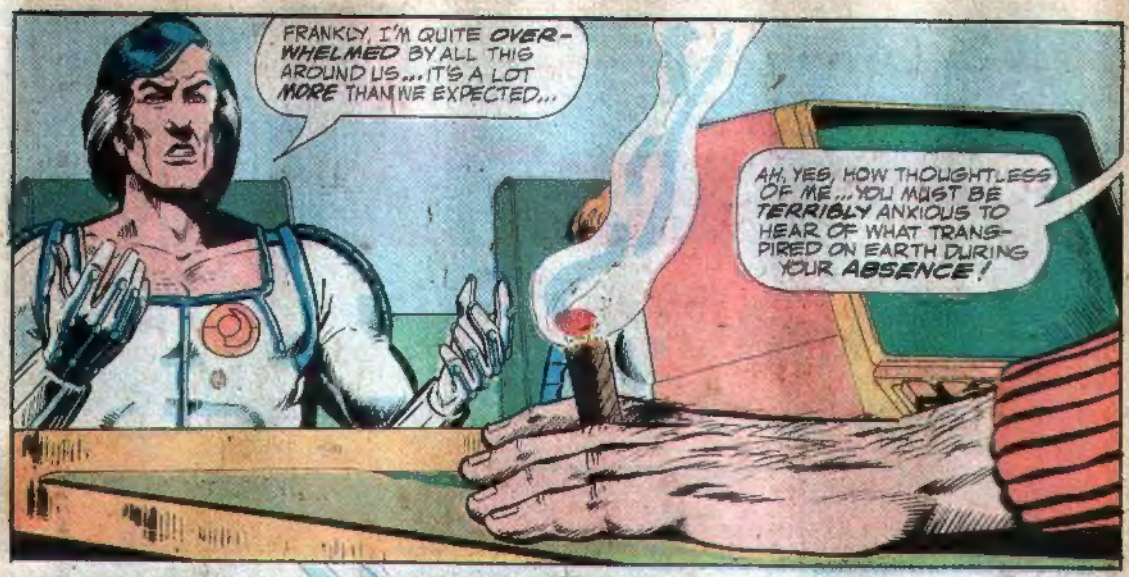
"BUT SOMEHOW, WE STILL HAD HOPE! WE DECIDED TO MAINTAIN OUR ORBIT AROUND MARS AND MONITOR ALL OF THE KNOWN RADIO BANDS UNTIL WE HEARD SOME WORD, SOME HINT THAT ALL LIFE ON EARTH HAD NOT PERISHED... BUT AFTER WEEKS OF FUTILE WAITING, WE WERE FACED WITH THE CRITICAL LIMITATIONS OF OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS!"

ELIGSA, IF WE DON'T START OUT FOR EARTH WITHIN TWO DAYS, OUR OXYGEN WON'T LAST THE TRIP! BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING WE MIGHT NOT BE BETTER OFF NOT SEEING WHAT'S HAPPENED..

WHATEVER HAS HAPPENED TO IT... IT'S STILL HOME, CHRIS... IT'S STILL HOME!

"SO IT WAS DECIDED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE CREW TO MAKE THE LONG TREK BACK..."

"--TO WHATEVER WAS LEFT..."


FRANKLY, I'M QUITE OVER-WHELMED BY ALL THIS AROUND US... IT'S A LOT MORE THAN WE EXPECTED...
AH, YES, HOW THOUGHTLESS OF ME... YOU MUST BE TERRIBLY ANXIOUS TO HEAR OF WHAT TRANS-PIRED ON EARTH DURING YOUR ABSENCE!

THE IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS THAT COME TO MIND, SIR, CONCERN THE SO-CALLED "SAVAGES" THAT LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE DOME, AND THE NEED FOR THE DOME ITSELF...

AH... THOSE ARE QUESTIONS THAT WOULD BE BEST ANSWERED BY A PERUSAL OF OUR HIS-TORICAL FILM ARCHIVES... I SHALL ARRANGE A PRESENTATION FOR YOU! IN THE MEANTIME...

...I'M SURE YOU WOULD ALL APPRECIATE A CHANCE TO BATHE, RELAX, AND ENJOY A HOT MEAL... CITIZEN 80F62105, THE FLOATER GUNNER, WILL SHOW YOU TO... AH... TEMPORARY QUARTERS!

AFTER YOU'VE... AH... FRESHENED UP A BIT, WE SHALL CONVENE TO THE AUDITORIUM WHERE THE BRIEFING CAN CONTINUE AT... AH... YOUR LIESURE...

THANKS AGAIN, SIR... WE COULD ALL USE A BIT OF RELAXATION...
SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE, AND I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT!

STEP THIS WAY, PLEASE! YOUR QUARTERS ARE ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL AND...
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

PAY IT NO MIND! IT'S JUST A "SAVAGE" PRISONER BEING TAKEN TO... UM... "INDOCTRINATION FACILITIES"...

INDOCTRINATION FACILITIES?

THAT GUY LOOKED SCARED TO DEATH! JUST WHAT DOES THIS "INDOCTRINATION" INVOLVE, ANYWAY?
OH... NOTHING VERY HORRIBLE AT ALL...
IT'S JUST THAT THESE "ANIMALS" ARE SO USED TO THEIR DEGRADED EXISTENCE, THAT THE VERY THOUGHT OF LEADING AN ORDERLY, CONSTRUCTIVE LIFE FRIGHTENS THEM!

SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT RAP BEFORE... I BET YOU GUYS GO IN FOR ARM BANDS AND GOOSE-STEPPING TOO...

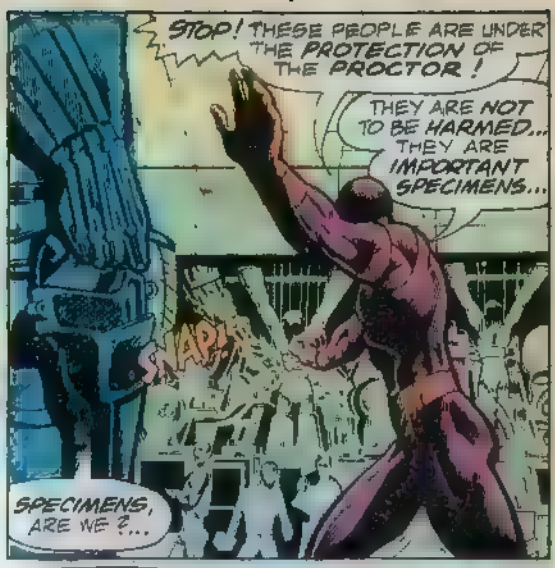
KEEP ON YOUR TOES HONEY... THIS GUY IS LYING THROUGH HIS TEETH!

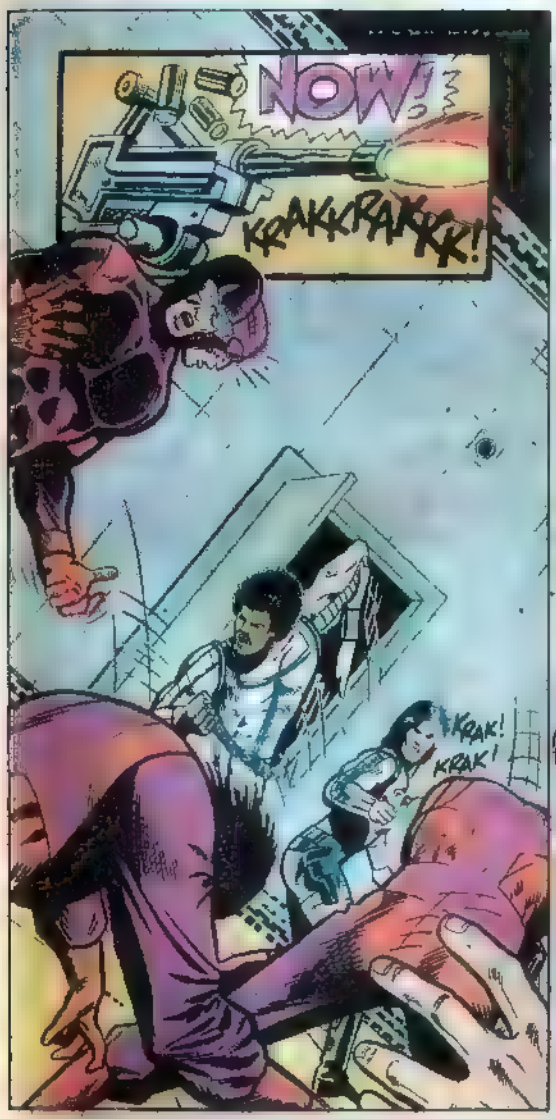
WHAT CAN WE DO... NOW--
KEEP COOL FOR NOW... BUT BE READY, JUST IN CASE...

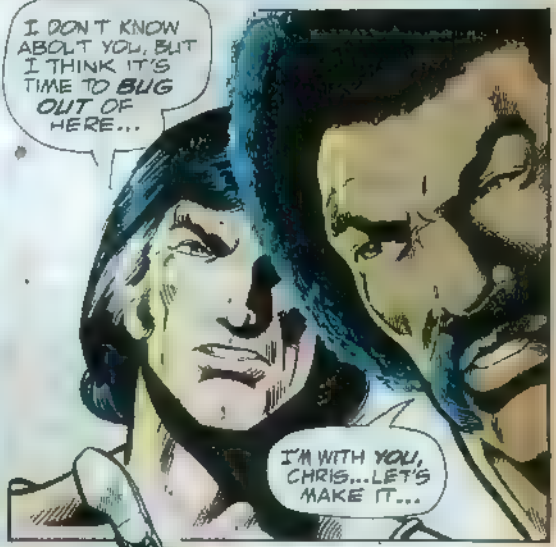
ARRRRGH
HEY! PEOPLE ONLY SCREAM LIKE THAT WHEN THEY'RE DYING!

THAT SCREAM CAME FROM THE END OF THE HALL;-- FROM THE "INDOCTRINATION FACILITY"!
I'VE GOT A FEELIN' THAT WHATEVER'S BEHIND THIS DOOR WILL ANSWER MOST OF OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PLACE!
WHUOMPP!
OH, MY GOD! IT'S WORSE THAN I IMAGINED!
HORRIBLE!
AN ASSEMBLY LINE FOR EXTRACTING BODILY FLUIDS FROM LIVING PEOPLE!
THIS IS WHY THAT "SAVAGE" AT THE BEACH CALLED US BLOOD SUCKERS" WHEN HE THOUGHT WE WERE DOME PEOPLE! THE "DOMIES" ARE MECHANIZED VAMPIRES!
GUARDS! SOUND RED ALERT! UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL HAVE ENTERED A RESTRICTED AREA!

SHOOT THEM DOWN! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!


STOP! THESE PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE PROCTOR!
THEY ARE NOT TO BE HARMED... THEY ARE IMPORTANT SPECIMENS...
SNAP!
SPECIMENS, ARE WE?...


NOW!
KRAKKRAKKK!
KRAK! KRAK!


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME TO BUG OUT OF HERE...
I'M WITH YOU, CHRIS...LET'S MAKE IT...

LET'S SEE YOU SUCK BLOOD WITH NO TEETH, CREEP!
WHUMP!

THROW DOWN THOSE WEAPONS AND COME ALONG PEACEABLY! THIS SECTOR WILL BE CORDONED OFF IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS! I THINK WE'D RATHER SHOOT OUR WAY OUT!
BRATAT

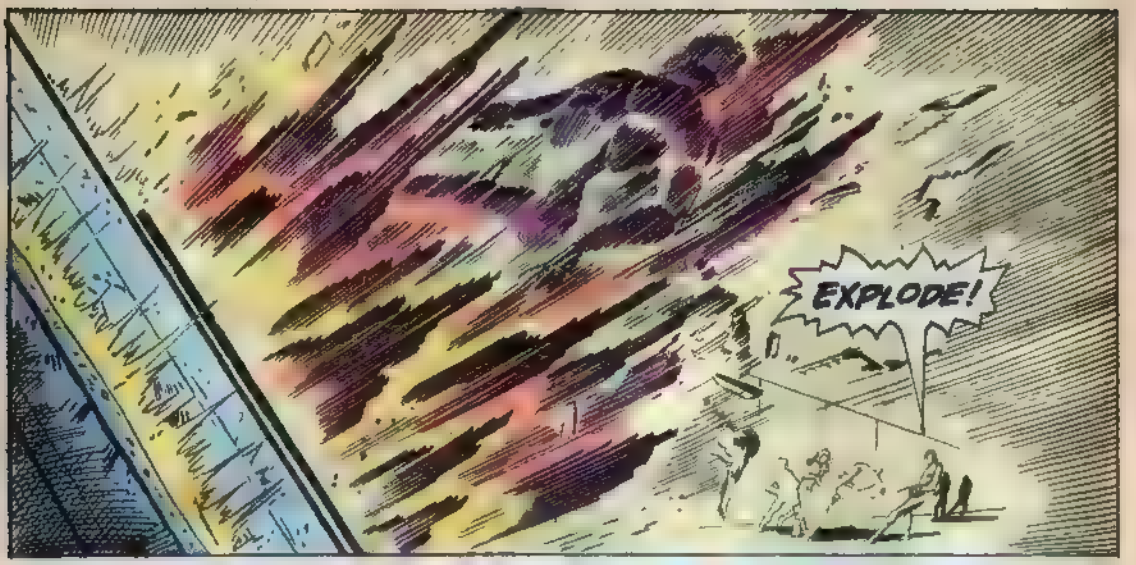
ELISSA! TRY TO FIND SOME MORE AMMO!
WE'RE GONNA NEED A LOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
NO LIE, CHRIS! LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE DECLARED OPEN SEASON ON ASTRONAUTS!

GUARDS! GIVE ME COVER! I'VE GOT TO ABORT THE EXTRACTION PROCESS... WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A LOSS ON THIS BATCH OF "SAVAGES"!

DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE'S GOING TO KILL OFF THOSE POOR GUYS ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT...

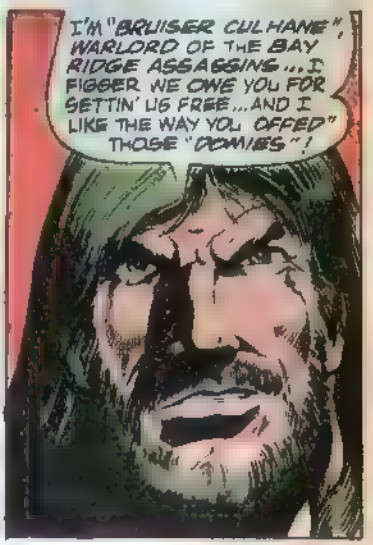
SWEET DREAMS, BALDY... I HOPE YOU WAKE UP WITH A HEADACHE!
WHAM!
BONK!

WE'RE WITH YOU...GIVE US... GUNS!
I'M TAKING A CHANCE ON RELEASING YOU GUYS! ARE YOU WITH US OR AGAINST US?!
ARGHH
THEY'RE YOURS FOR THE TAKING!! WE CAN USE ALL THE FIREPOWER WE CAN GET!!
BRRRRRP!
THEY'VE GONE CRAZY! THEY'RE NOT JUST SHOOTING AT THE GUARDS! THEY'RE BLASTING THE MACHINERY...
LET IT RIDE, SUGAR. THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF HATE INSIDE THAT WANTS OUT!
MEANWHILE, WE'D BETTER CLEAR OUT, PRONTO! THE WALL CIRCUITS ARE BEGINNING TO SHORT AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THIS WHOLE PLACE WILL...

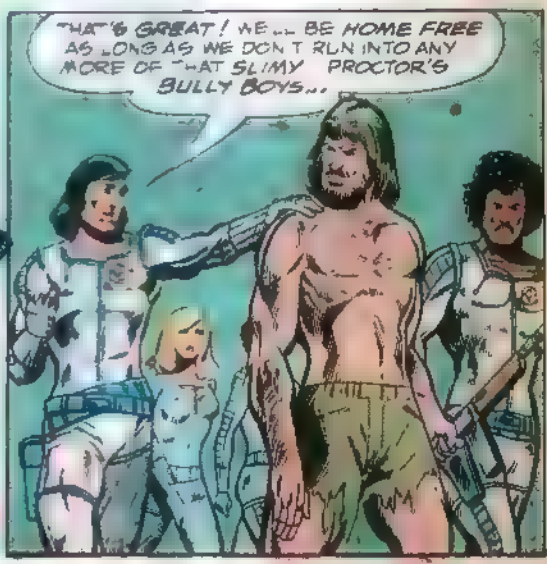

EXPLODE!

OUR NEW FRIENDS ARE MAKING A FAST EXIT...
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING TOO! ONLY TROUBLE IS... WE DON'T KNOW OUR WAY AROUND IN THIS MESS...

LOOK! THEY'RE STOPPING! ONE OF THEM'S GESTURING TO US!
C'MON THIS MAY BE OUR TICKET TO FREEDOM!

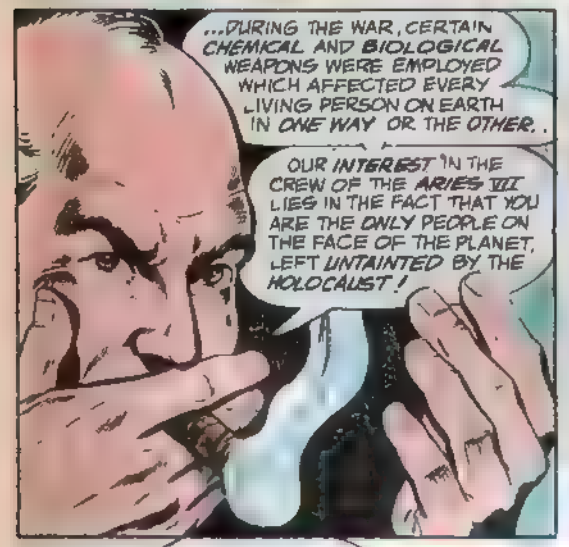

I'M "BRUISER CULHANE", WARLORD OF THE BAY RIDGE ASSAGGINS... I FIGGER WE OWE YOU FOR GETTIN' US FREE... AND I LIKE THE WAY YOU OFFED" THOSE "DOMIES"!

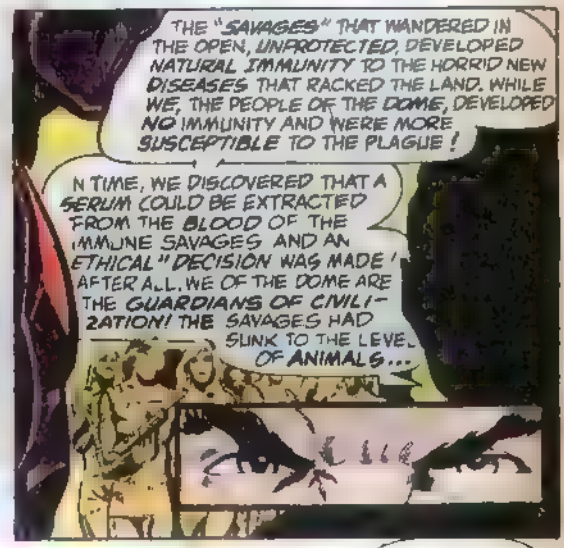
IF YA FOLLOW US, WE CAN LEAD YOU FROM THIS STINKIN' DOME! THEY'VE GOT UTILITY CORRIDORS AND FREIGHT ELEVATORS THAT AIN'T PATROLLED AT ALL..

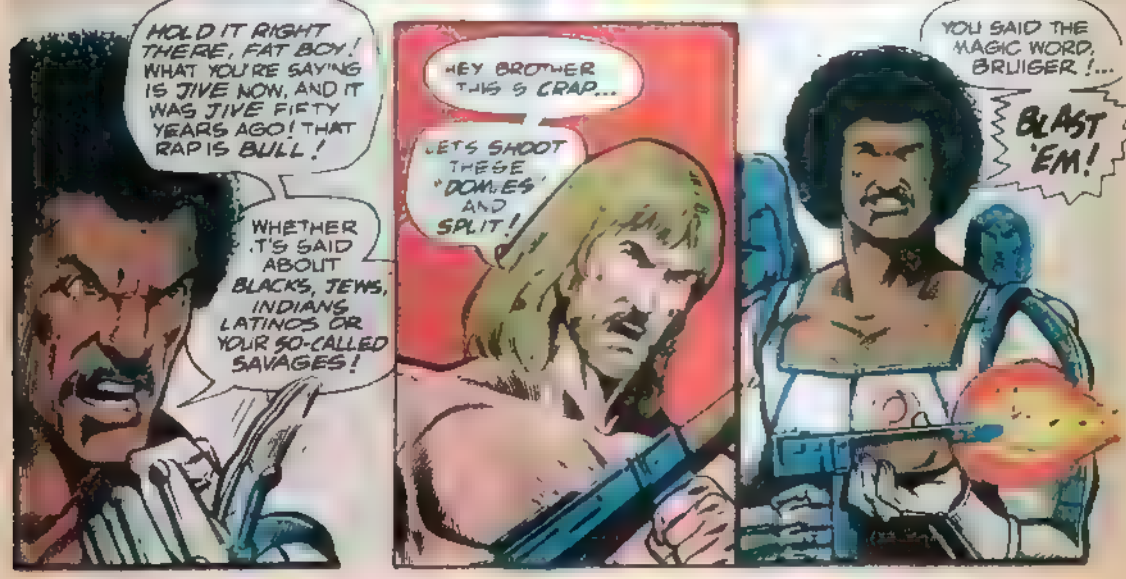

THAT'S GREAT! WE... BE HOME FREE AS LONG AS WE DON'T RUN INTO ANY MORE OF THAT SLIMY PROCTOR'S BULLY BOYS...

HEY! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL! IT'S THE MAN HIMSELF, AND HE'S BROUGHT HIS STORM TROOPERS ALONG...

AH, MY FRIENDS! IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO EXPLAIN, I MAY BE ABLE TO CLARIFY ANY...ah... MISUNDERSTANDINGS YOU MAY HAVE AS A RESULT OF SEEING,, ah... CERTAIN THINGS YOU WERE NOT PREPARED TO COMPREHEND!


...DURING THE WAR, CERTAIN CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WERE EMPLOYED WHICH AFFECTED EVERY LIVING PERSON ON EARTH IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER..
OUR INTEREST IN THE CREW OF THE ARIES VII LIES IN THE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET, LEFT UNTAINTED BY THE HOLOCAUST!


THE "SAVAGES" THAT WANDERED IN THE OPEN, UNPROTECTED, DEVELOPED NATURAL IMMUNITY TO THE HORRID NEW DISEASES THAT RACKED THE LAND. WHILE WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE DOME, DEVELOPED NO IMMUNITY AND WERE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE PLAGUE!
N TIME, WE DISCOVERED THAT A SERUM COULD BE EXTRACTED FROM THE BLOOD OF THE IMMUNE SAVAGES AND AN "ETHICAL" DECISION WAS MADE! AFTER ALL, WE OF THE DOME ARE THE GUARDIANS OF CIVILIZATION! THE SAVAGES HAD SUNK TO THE LEVEL OF ANIMALS...


HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, FAT BOY! WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS JIVE NOW, AND IT WAS JIVE FIFTY YEARS AGO! THAT RAP IS BULL!
WHETHER IT'S SAID ABOUT BLACKS, JEWS, INDIANS, LATINOS OR YOUR SO-CALLED SAVAGES!
HEY BROTHER THIS S CRAP...
LET'S SHOOT THESE "DOMES" AND SPLIT!
YOU SAID THE MAGIC WORD, BRUIGER!...
BLAST 'EM!

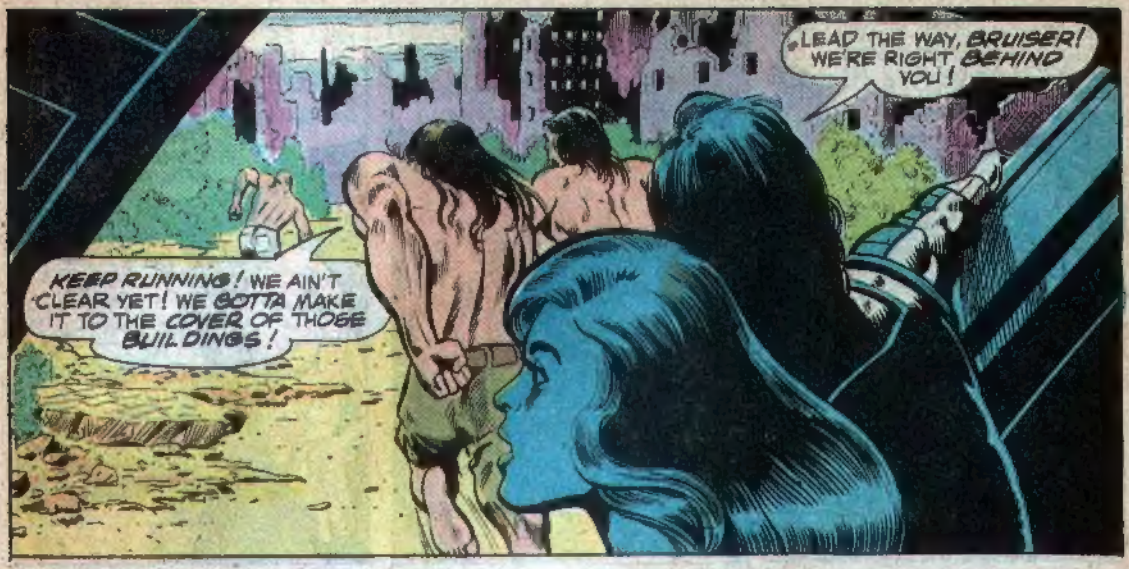
KILL THEM ALL! THEY'VE CAST THEIR LOT WITH THE SAVAGES!
WE CAN HOLD 'EM OFF FOR A WHILE, BUT SOME OF MY BOYS ARE HURT REAL BAD... THEY AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT UNLESS WE CAN GET TO THE ROOF AND STEAL A FLOATER!

WE'D BETTER SPLIT OUR FORCES! BRENDA'S A DOCTOR AND CAN HELP THE WOUNDED, SO SHE AND I WILL TAKE THE PARTY TO THE ROOF!

RIGHT! ELISSA AND I CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THE LOWER LEVELS WITH BRUISER! WE'LL RENDEZVOUS BACK AT THE BEACH!

THIS AIR SHAFT WILL TAKE US DOWN TO THE MAINTAINENCE LEVEL! BUT WE BETTER GET A MOVE ON!
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE BRINGING UP THE "HEAVY" STUFF!

STICK TOGETHER AND MOVE FAST! THEY'LL BE ON US IN A SECOND!
THIS WAY! I SEE AN OPEN HATCH TO THE STREET!

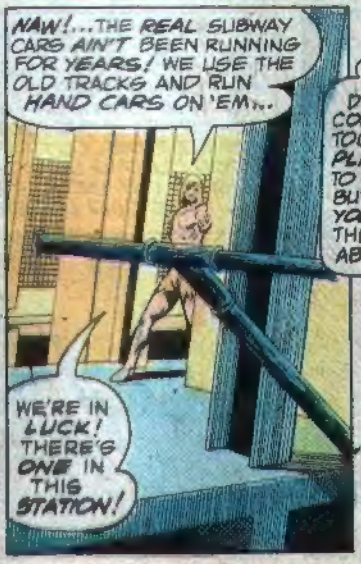

LEAD THE WAY, BRUISER! WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
KEEP RUNNING! WE AIN'T CLEAR YET! WE GOTTA MAKE IT TO THE COVER OF THOSE BUILDINGS!

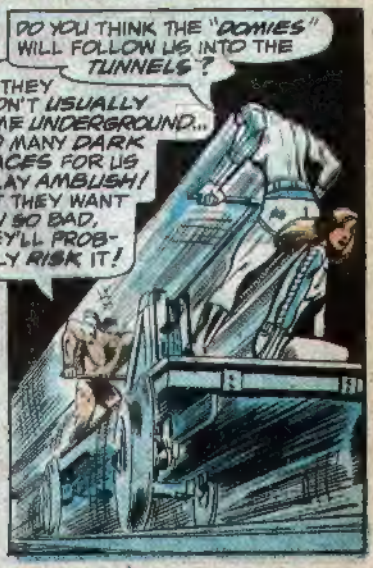
CHRIS! THERE'S AN AERIAL BATTLE GOING ON ABOVE THE ROOF! IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO BRENDA AND CRAIG...
CRAIG CAN HANDLE ANYTHING THEY THROW AT HIM, ELISSA...

...HE WAS A HELL ON WHEELS FIGHTER PILOT BEFORE HE SIGNED UP FOR THE MARS PROBE!

NO TIME FOR SIGHT-SEEING, FOLKS! MY MAIN MAN, SPANISH EDDIE JUST FOUND AN UNSEALED ENTRANCE TO THE SUBWAY!

SUBWAY? YOU MEAN THEY'RE STILL FUNCTIONING? I ASSUMED ALL THE POWER STATIONS...


NAW!...THE REAL SUBWAY CARS AIN'T BEEN RUNNING FOR YEARS! WE USE THE OLD TRACKS AND RUN HAND CARS ON 'EM...
WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S ONE IN THIS STATION!


DO YOU THINK THE "DOMIES" WILL FOLLOW US INTO THE TUNNELS?
THEY DON'T USUALLY COME UNDERGROUND... TOO MANY DARK PLACES FOR US TO LAY AMBUSH! BUT THEY WANT YOU SO BAD, THEY'LL PROBABLY RISK IT!

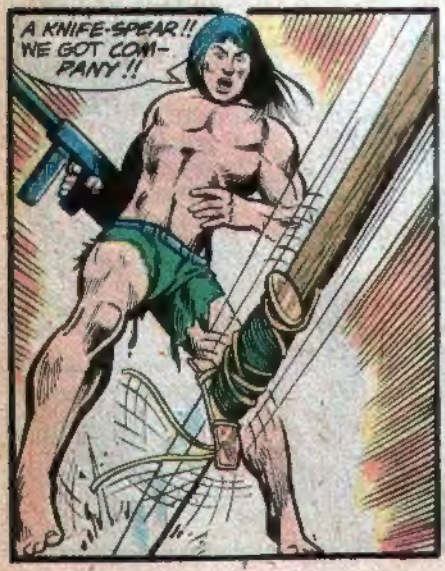
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TRAVELLIN' UNDER THE EAST RIVER... AS SOON AS WE GET TO BROOKLYN, WE'LL HOP OFF THIS CAR...

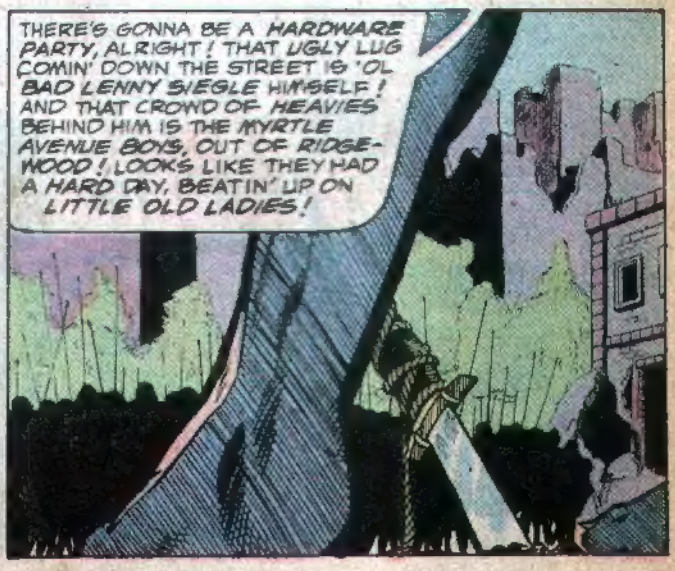
...AND SPANISH EDDIE WILL TAKE IT FURTHER DOWN THE LINE, TO THROW THE "DOMIES" OFF OUR TRAIL...

HE'LL BE ALL BY HIMSELF!... ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
HAR!... SPANISH EDDIE EATS DOMIES FOR BREAKFAST! AIN'T NOBODY CAN TAKE HIM... 'SPECIALLY NOT IN A DARK TUNNEL!

LET'S GO! WE'LL BE A LOT SAFER IF WE CAN MAKE IT TO THE BEACH BEFORE SUNDOWN!

...IF WE FOLLOW THE NARROW STREETS AND STICK CLOSE TO THE BUILDINGS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID THE FLOATER PATROLS! WE MIGHT EVEN...


A KNIFE-SPEAR!! WE GOT COMPANY!!


THERE'S GONNA BE A HARDWARE PARTY, ALRIGHT! THAT UGLY LUG COMIN' DOWN THE STREET IS 'OL BAD LENNY SIEGLE HIMSELF! AND THAT CROWD OF HEAVIES BEHIND HIM IS THE MYRTLE AVENUE BOYS, OUT OF RIDGEWOOD! LOOKS LIKE THEY HAD A HARD DAY, BEATIN' UP ON LITTLE OLD LADIES!

I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TO TANGLE WITH THOSE RIDGEWOOD BUMS! EVER SINCE THAT TUSSLE DOWN AT...
COOL IT, RALPH! THERE'S OVER A HUNDRED OF 'EM AND THEY'VE GOT...
UNNNH!
KRAK!
WELL, WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE WE HERE? IT APPEARS TO BE THAT HUNK OF BAY RIDGE GARBAGE THAT CALLS HIMSELF BRUISER CULHANE!...
YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME, BRUISER! AND IF I GOT ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, YOU'RE GONNA STAY A LONG WAY FROM HOME...
...PERMANENTLY!
OH, CHRIS! I DON'T THINK THAT EVEN BRUISER CAN GET US OUT OF THIS ONE!
I DON'T KNOW, ELISSA! BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'S TOO STREET-WISE NOT TO HAVE SOME SORT OF ACE UP HIS SLEEVE...
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE IN FEBRUARY